

DARK AVENGERS



NORMAN OSBORN, FORMER THUNDERBOLTS LEADER, HAS RISEN TO POWER AND WAS APPOINTED TO REPLACE TONY STARK AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TASKFORCE, H.A.M.M.E.R., WHICH INCLUDES HIS OWN TEAM OF AVENGERS.

THEY'RE A GATHERING OF CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES THAT NORMAN HAS GIVEN THE ICONIC LIKENESSES OF MANY OF THE FAMOUS AVENGERS, AS WELL AS THE SECRET IDENTITIES THAT GO WITH THEM. JOINING FORMER MIGHTY AVENGERS ARES AND SENTRY ARE THE ASSASSIN BULLSEYE, NOW HAWKEYE; REFORMED CRIMINAL MOONSTONE, NOW MS. MARVEL; WOLVERINE'S DISTURBED SON DAKEN, NOW WOLVERINE; VENOM TRANSFORMED INTO A NEW SPIDER-MAN; KREE WARRIOR MARVEL BOY TOOK ON THE MANTLE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL; AND NORMAN UNVEILED HIS NEW IDENTITY...THE IRON PATRIOT.

NORMAN IS ALSO TRYING TO HELP THE POWERFUL SENTRY DEAL WITH HIS DEMONS WHILE HE CONTINUES TO DEAL WITH HIS OWN.

THEIR LATEST MISSION HAS TAKEN THEM TO DINOSAUR, COLORADO, ON THE TRAIL OF A MISSING POLITICIAN'S DAUGHTER, WHERE NORMAN HAS COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE INSANELY POWERFUL TEAM OF MOLECULE MAN, THE BEYONDER, THE ENCHANTRESS, MEPHISTO AND ZARATHOS...

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS - WRITER
GREG HORN - PAINTED PAGES 12-14 & 16-17
VC'S CORY PETIT - LETTERER
LAUREN SANKOVITCH - ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JOE QUESADA - EDITOR IN CHIEF
ALAN FINE - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

MIKE DEODATO - ART
RAIN BEREED - COLOR ART
DEODATO AND BEREED - COVER ART
TOM BREWDOORT - EDITOR
DAN BUCKLEY - PUBLISHER

S.H.I.E.L.D. OUTPOST 9 WASHINGTON D.C.
THREE YEARS AGO.

BUT I'M
RIGHT!!

DOESN'T
MATTER IF YOU'RE
RIGHT, IT'S NOT
YOUR PLACE.

I'M
AN AGENT OF
S.H.I.E.L.D.

YOU'RE AN
ACCOUNTANT.

OF
S.H.I.E.L.D.

YES.
ACCOUNTANT OF
S.H.I.E.L.D.

AND NICK
FURY DOESN'T WANT
TO HEAR FROM ONE OF
HIS ACCOUNTANTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
ABOUT HER HOLIER-THAN-THOU
PHILOSOPHY ON GLOBAL
TERRORISM.

I DON'T CARE
WHAT HE WANTS TO
HEAR, IT NEEDS TO
BE SAID.

NO.

WHAT YOU
NEED IS A WINDOW
IN YOUR OFFICE AND
YOU NEED TO CRACK
IT OPEN.

VICTORIA HAND.
BUSINESS AFFAIRS OPERATIVE.
SECURITY CLEARANCE 4.

AS IN...
YOU NEED
FRESH AIR.

YOU NEED TO KNOW
YOUR PLACE IN
THIS GIANT MACHINE
WE WORK IN.

ISABELLE.

AGH!!

HE'S--
LISTEN--HE'S
TOO CLOSE
TO IT.

HE DOESN'T SEE THE
WORLD THE WAY I
SEE IT. HE CAN'T.

HE'S TOO
CLOSE. HE DOESN'T
SEE HOW MUCH IT'S
COSTING US OR HOW
LONG IT'S GOING
ON FOR.

HE'S STUCK
IN--IN THIS BIG
GAME.

S.H.I.E.L.D.
HYDRA. A.I.M.
S.H.I.E.L.D. HYDRA.
A.I.M. S.H.I.E.L.D.
HYDRA. A.I.M.

IT'S A GAME
NO ONE IS
ACTUALLY TRYING
TO WIN.

A
GAME.

AGH!

TAP

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE
U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE
1200 FEET OVER LANGLEY, VIRGINIA.

COLONEL FURY,
YOU NEED TO SIGN
OFF ON THE QUARTERLY
BUDGET.

ONE WEEK LATER.

HAVE I EVER TOLD
ANY OF YOU HOW MUCH
I LOVE SIGNING OFF
ON THE QUARTERLY
BUDGET?

NO,
SIR.

REALLY? I
WONDER WHY
THAT IS.

IS IT MAYBE
BECAUSE YOU *DON'T*
LOVE SIGNING OFF ON
THE QUARTERLY
BUDGET?

WELL DANG
GUM THERE, DUM DUM,
YOU'RE SOME KINDA
DICK TRACY.

"DEAR COLONEL
FURY, MY NAME IS VICTORIA
HAND. I'M A BUSINESS
AFFAIRS AGENT WORKING
UNDER YOU."

HUH.

WHAT IS
THAT?

"BUT I FEEL I
MUST VOICE MY PERSONAL
DISAPPOINTMENT IN YOUR
INABILITY TO MAKE ANY
FORWARD MOMENTUM IN
OUR WAR AGAINST GLOBAL
TERRORISM."

ARE
YOU KIDDING
ME?

WOW.

DO
I NEED
THIS?

NO
SIR.

YOU'LL
TAKE CARE
OF THIS.

YES
SIR.

I SPECIFICALLY
DON'T GO ON THE
INTERNET TO AVOID
THINGS LIKE THIS...

YES
SIR.

IT'S LIKE
THE INTERNET IS
STALKING ME.



WHAT
IS ALL
THAT?

DID--DID
YOU GET
FIRED??!!

MY
STUFF.

TRANSFERRED?

TRANSFERRED.

WHERE?

PORTLAND,
OREGON.

WHY? WHAT
HAPPENED?

YOU
SENT THE
LETTER.

I TOLD YOU
NOT TO AND
NOW YOU @##%
UP OUR LIFE
TOGETHER.

WE'RE
DONE.

DON'T
EVER CALL
ME.

MISTER OSBORN, MY NAME IS OWEN REESE.

REED RICHARDS NAMED ME THE MOLECULE MAN.

DO YOU KNOW ME?

NO.

WE KNOW YOU, NORMAN OSBORN.

WE WATCH THE OUTSIDE WORLD VERY CLOSELY.

THE COMING AND GOINGS, THE POWER-BROKERING.

WE KNEW YOU'D COME HERE EVENTUALLY. YOU OR... SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

I HAVE THE ABILITY TO BREAK THE RULES OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

I CONTROL THE VERY MOLECULES OF THE WORLD.

WELL, THE ONES AROUND ME.

AND YOU CAME INTO MY WORLD. SO I CONTROL THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

OKAY, OKAY, LET'S JUST—LET'S BACK UP HERE.

HOW CAN I HELP YOU? HOW CAN I HELP YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS?

MY FRIENDS?

WE'RE NOT HIS FRIENDS.

OWEN DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL FRIENDS IN THE REAL WORLD.

THE WORLD WASN'T MADE FOR HIM.

THE FRIENDS HE DESERVES.

WE'RE THE FRIENDS HE MADE.

WE'RE THE FRIENDS HE SHOULD HAVE.

IF THE WORLD WERE A FAIR PLACE.

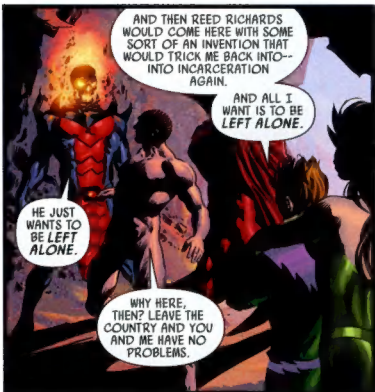
SO, NONE OF THIS IS REAL.

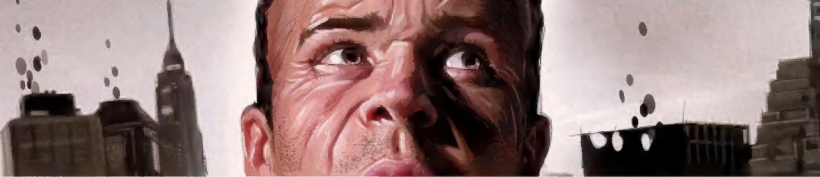
REAL?

TRUST ME... THIS IS AS REAL AS REAL GETS.

YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW REAL?









NO!!



I DID MY HOMEWORK ON YOU.

I WAS READY.

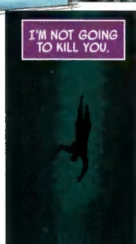
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE BRAIN IS MADE OUT OF, MISTER OSBORN?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT SECRET FILES ARE MADE OUT OF?

MOLECULES.



I KNOW ALL YOUR SECRETS AND LIES.



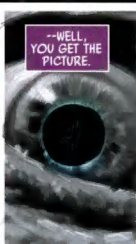
I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.



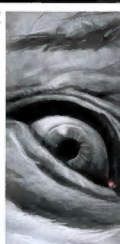
BUT WHEN THEY FIND YOU...



YOU--



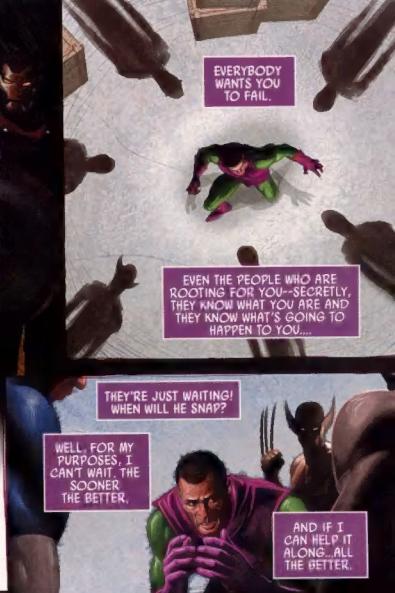
--WELL, YOU GET THE PICTURE.





THE ONLY THING ABOUT YOU I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS...

HOW LONG DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GOING TO HAVE THIS JOB, ANYHOW?



EVERYBODY WANTS YOU TO FAIL.

EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ROOTING FOR YOU--SECRETLY, THEY KNOW WHAT YOU ARE AND THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU....

THEY'RE JUST WAITING! WHEN WILL HE SNAP?

WELL, FOR MY PURPOSES, I CAN'T WAIT. THE SOONER THE BETTER.

AND IF I CAN HELP IT ALONG...ALL THE BETTER.



BUT I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU...





EVERYONE!!
HEY!!

EVERYONE.
JUST. CALM.
DOWN.

WE NEED TO
SEND IN AN AIR
ASSAULT ON THE
ENTIRE--

NO.

WELL, WE
CAN'T DO
NOTHING!

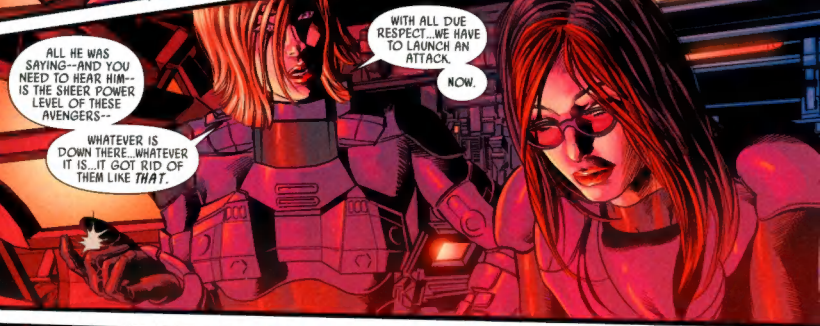


HEY!!
I'M DEPUTY
DIRECTOR!
ME!

THAT
MEANS I'M
IN CHARGE
HERE!

IF THAT
CONCERNS
YOU, THEN YOU
MAY LEAVE MY
BRIDGE!

YOU WERE
NOT TRAINED
TO PANIC AT THE
FIRST SIGN OF
TROUBLE.

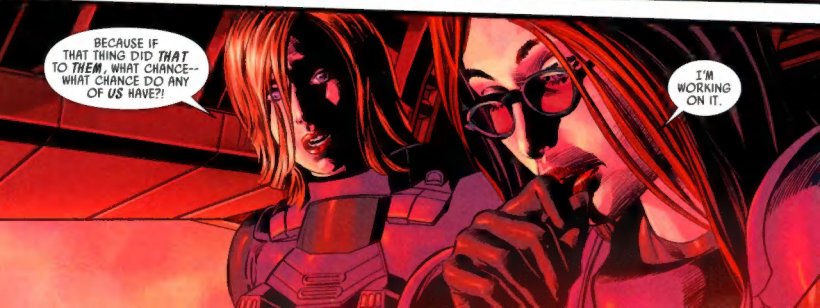


ALL HE WAS
SAYING--AND YOU
NEED TO HEAR HIM--
IS THE SHEER POWER
LEVEL OF THESE
AVENGERS--

WHATEVER IS
DOWN THERE...WHATEVER
IT IS...IT GOT RID OF
THEM LIKE *THAT*.

WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT...WE HAVE
TO LAUNCH AN
ATTACK.

NOW.



BECAUSE IF
THAT THING DID *THAT*
TO *THEM*, WHAT CHANCE--
WHAT CHANCE DO ANY
OF *US* HAVE?!

I'M
WORKING
ON IT.





WE COULD
HAVE BEEN
FRIENDS.



OHH!!
OHH!!

HELP!
SOMEBODY
HELP ME!

GUYS?!?
NORMAN?!?

OH, NO...
OW!!

AARRGGHH!!

OH
GOD...

GARGGHH!!

I'VE SEPARATED ALL
YOU "AVENGERS" SO
I CAN DEAL WITH YOU
AS INDIVIDUALS.

I WATCHED YOU
FROM AFAR BEFORE YOU
GOT HERE. I SAW YOU ON
TV. AND I WONDERED:
WHAT KIND OF HEROES
■■■■ THESE?

BUT IT SEEMS
YOU'RE NOT
HEROES AT
ALL.

YOU'RE
CRIMINALS.

YOU'RE
SEEDY CON
MEN.

NORMAN
OSBORN I SORT
OF UNDERSTAND...
THE REST OF
YOU....

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO
MAKE OF YOU.

NNGGAAHHH!!

TAKE
YOUR
TIME.

I--I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'RE MAKING A
HUGE MISTAKE
HERE.

JUST CALM
DOWN. I WANT
TO HAVE A
CONVERSATION
WITH YOU.

YOU
CRAZY--!!

PSHHAAAMMM

I'M
TRYING TO
TALK--

BUT I SEE
THERE'S NO
REASONING
WITH YOU.

FINE.

WOLVERINE'S
SON.

'MGONNA
KILL YOU!!

AND YOU'RE
FIGHTING AGAINST
ME. HOW ~~WOLVERINE~~ YOU
EVEN--?

OH, YOU ~~WOLVERINE~~ A
HEALING FACTOR.
YES, I HAD THE SAME
PROBLEM WITH
YOUR FATHER.

HE ALWAYS
FOUND A WAY
TO FIGHT
PAST ME.

RRRR!!!



YOU KNOW, ARES, GOD OF WAR...

I THINK WE'VE RUN INTO EACH OTHER BEFORE, NOW THAT I GET A CLOSER LOOK.

BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE IS I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.

I HAVE TO SEND AT LEAST MOST OF YOU BACK TO THE WORLD IN A WAY THAT STOPS YOU AND GUARANTEES THEY SEND NO ONE ELSE.

IF I SEND YOU BACK LIKE THIS, THEY'LL JUST SEND IN REED RICHARDS.

THIS IS A CHANCE TO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN.

THIS IS A CHANCE TO—TO BE SMARTER.

I CAN BE SMARTER... I CAN.

YOU SHOULD RUN AWAY.

THEY'D NEVER FIND YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO.

THESE AREN'T SUPER HEROES. THEY'RE MURDERERS.

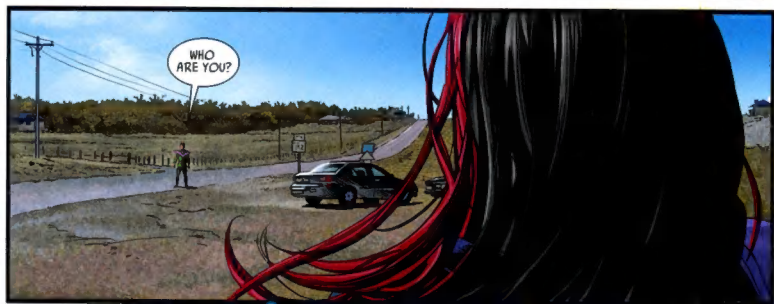
THEY'LL KILL YOU IF THEY CAN.

IF YOU GIVE THEM A CHANCE.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

DID YOU SEE THE ONE THEY CALL HAWKEYE?





TO BE CONTINUED...



GREEN GIANT

MADVILLAIN

